



*A Quest of Enquirie,  
by women to know,  
Whether the Tispe-wife were trimmed  
by Doll ye or no.*

*Gathered by Oliver Oat-meale.*



*Imprinted at London by T. G. and are to be  
sold in Paules Church-yard.*

*1 5 9 5.*







**O** Luer, if your name be Oluer, by your leaue  
a cast, for I must shew in betwene the doore  
and the wal, that is shuffe a letter in betwene  
your title and Pamphlet: which Letter was directed to  
be set at the two foales at London bridge: and for my  
hart I cannot finde the signe. Nowe since your Pam-  
phlet lacks both a Pille and a Patrone, I thinke this  
letter will fit ye for either, and by wandring among ma-  
nie, happen at lengt into the right owners hands. It  
followes at auenture.

*To Simon Huff-snuff the terrible Book-tearer,  
& furious defacer of the Tripe-wines effigies,  
peace offered with cap and knee, to preserve all  
papers from like extremitie.*

**H**aight minded, and hot spirited Simon, I salute ye.  
Understanding your valarous assaults against *The  
Tricking of the Tripe-wife*, in sundrie places: I could  
but commend your forwardnes: and praise your adul-  
ter opinion upon the first sight, both of the Author that  
made it, and of them that neuer heard of it before your  
selfe: twas well done, you shall finde *Castilian* of my  
minde, that of such swift censurers hath this sentence:

*A fooles bolt is soone shot,*

*Ad penitendum properat, cito qui indicat.*

**E**ue, what tell I you of repentance, proceed, pro-  
ceed, your neighbor Nichol and you may answere any  
thing

thing you do. By your leave sir a little : and while I  
talke, haue some patience, glaze not with your eyes,  
fome not at the mouth, strike no: with your fists, stamp  
not with your feece : I will reason reasonably vppon  
my honestie, & yet I care not if I leaue argument, and  
use example.

A quaint fellow growen fortunate : excellling as hee  
thinks both in wealth and wisdom all his other ri-  
ualls, forges to himselfe an imaginarie conceipt, that  
they enuying his good, intend to haue publike iests at  
him and his late won wife. The most of them whose  
good fortunes it was to lose (as it had been great pit-  
tie to part so louing a couple) are most Scholler-like  
Gentlemen, and one of them generally beloued of all  
that in printing haue experience to publish any thing, &  
at this time is posselt of a worshipfull place, according  
to the laudable customes of this honorable Ctie. Now  
whic hway in your opinion is best to preuent the wri-  
ting or publishing of anie odde toy : shall hee reconcile  
himselfe to those that were the *quondam* luters, & giue  
good words, because his widow hath been notoriou-  
ly ridiculous : Or shall he run vp and downe the town,  
with sciskes, and heighs, and fillops, and trickes, ac-  
companied with some such wise-akers as himselfe, (Be  
not offended *Simon*, though you be his companion) re-  
uiling his betters, and abusing his equalls. The ex-  
ample needes no application : and for answere your  
neighbor *Nichol* tooke this last course. For I haue  
heard him that trickt the Tripe-wife sweare, till her  
husband abused him, and your selfe consorting with  
Nick Tricke misused his whole companie, the Ma-  
sters especially, one of them in kindnes and reuerence  
of



that honourable name yee vse, bouchslasing both to accompanie and counsell you for your owne good: whose good wil you rewarded with reproches: but they that touch pitch shall bee defiled, and those that pleasure ingratefull persons withthankfully requited. He protests befoze God, that the Masters of his Companie, are utterly ignorant of his proceedings, and for ought hee knoweth are at him offended. He appeales to all the worshipfull Companies in London, especially to those of whom your selues are free, whether ye haue not done the parts of intemperate idiots, to abuse men in authoritie without cause: and protests, had he been but a waterman, as he is a professor of the most noble Science of Printing, hee would not haue suffered the abuse of his superiors. He repenteth not anie thing that he hath written, but is onely sorrie that he is by an honorable personage mistaken: but doubteth not shortly to proue how you haue abused one verie nere him. He swears that where he hath been a mortall enime to all Ballad Singers, he will neuer inuaigh against them more, if they will sing at your windowes a new Tigg, termed *Anie Tripes*. Consider neighbor *Simon* the contents, to wast paper be pitifull, and learne patience: keepe a good tung in your head, least it hurt your teeth. Farewell *Sim*, and commend me to your ouerthwart neighbor.

*Tours to vse, when ye know how to  
vse your selfe. D. D.*

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An Eglogue louingly begun and unluckily ended  
betwene the Tripe-wife, and Trickes  
her husband,

Trickes.

**S**it we sweete Sowce wife on this fraile of figs,  
Spize of those that doo our fortunes hate:  
Telling at vs with Ballads and with ligs,  
Enough to make kinde lue unkinde debate,

And while we carroll of our discontent,  
With strained notes, like scritch owles ykesome crie,  
The roaring river unto our lament  
Shall lend her lowd confused harmonie.

Tripe-wife.

Ah were we seated in a sowce-tubs shade,  
Ouer our heads of tripes a canopie:  
Remembrance of my past ioy-thruiuing trade,  
Would somewhat ease my present miserie,

But since I trotted from my trotter stall,  
And figd about from neates feete neatly drest:  
I finde no pleasure nor content at all,  
But lue disdaind, despisde, abusde, distrest.

Trickes.



## Trickes.

Why here are sweetes, sweete Lorne, for sent and tast,  
 Frute from the Straights, Spaine, Candie, Barbarte,  
 Indian Tobacco, humors moyst to wast,  
 Thou knowst I haue a pipe for thee and mee.

Succades and comfets, barts. help Cynamom:  
 Pepper cold in the maw, hot on the tung:  
 Seny to purge, health-keeping Balsamum,  
 And Mace, to make thy vizard smooth and young.

## Tripe-wife.

Out upon all this trash, your drugs, your spice,  
 Twere well if I had neuer seene your house:  
 You tearme my visage vizard, goodman vice:  
 But I was yong, faire, neate, when I sold sowse.

## Trickes.

Thy tripes were yong, thy neates feete fat and faire,  
 Thy sowse was sweete, and all these longd to thee:  
 Thy selfe wert wybered, old, leane, meager, bare,  
 Yet thou and they were both belinde of mee.

But neither thou nor they may make compare  
 With me or mine, therefore contend no more:  
 The Butchers offalls were thy sweetest ware,  
 Mine, of farre Kingdomes are the wealthy store.

## Trickes

*Tripe-wife.*

*Accurst was I to leane the Butchers fees,  
How base so ere, they brought in golden gaine,  
The mistres Tripe-wines name by thee I leese:  
That losse, their lacke, I ceaselesse doo complaine.*

*Trickes.*

*Accurst was I to haunt the pudding house,  
Where swine facde beaultie onely sate in pride:  
Curst be the chitterlings, the tripe, the sowse,  
And curst my selfe that did not all deride.*

*Tripe-wife.*

*What doost thou curse my trade? be this thy paine:  
Run bootles madding, raving vp and downe:  
All helplesty gainst yggging rymes complaine,  
Let euerie Ballad-finger beare thee downe.*

*Trickes.*

*Saist thou me so, thou Tripe, thou hated scorne?  
Goe swill thy sowse-tubs, loathed pudding-wife:  
My brother Husf snuf and my selfe haue sworne,  
Spite of thy cares to lead a pleasant life.*

*With this they part: and so the Eglogue ended,  
Tripe was with Trickes, and Trickes with Tripe of-  
fended.*





*A Quest of enquirie of twelue good, honest, and substantiall women, vpon examination of certaine persons, whether the Tripe wife were trimde or no.*

**I**t euen so neighbour *Nicholson* : now in good hartnesse I am soꝝp for your mishap, that a marriage accomplished so hastily, should be repented so suddenly. We man, keepe your owne counsell, and feare not, ad will be well enough I warrant ye. Your alledge in your letters, what a blemish it is to your credit, and withall, what an inward vexation of minde you are perplext withall, when your friends call in your recth your marriage with the Tripe wife, what a blaspemy hath shee hath becne, and still is, without any hope of her amendment. Yet all this is not so grievous to ye, as the bad reportes that flie abroad of her, that not contenting her selfe to be cosoned by a notable drab, she must afterward, or at the same instant, be trimde by that new vpstart Barbar, who instead of Kisses, was glad to vse a paire of sheeres, and for want of a chaire, such as men vse to sit in when they are trimde, she must aduance one foote vpon a Tresect, and make the other leg standing foolishly by, accessarie to the others intollerable folie. O world of iniquitie, where are womens wits : that make no difference betwene their owne secrets, and a Towe heede or a Tripe, and because their education hath onely bene to dressing the one, therefore they must needs make a trial of trimming the other.



For your sake good neighbour, pitying your day-ly beration, and according to my promise when we met last at Ratcliffe: I went to the place you wet of, where (though it was somewhat to my cost, yet nothing is ouer deere in regarde of a friend) I made meanes to get in, euen so soone as the Quest of women were newly calde together, and before any of the persons to be examined were admitted to answer. When seeing how orderly they intended to proceede, and that hereby a perfect resolution might ensue, both for my selfe and you: I drew forth my writing Tables, and getting close into a corner noted downe euery thing so nere as I could, which now written more at large, then in so small a roome I could compasse. I haue sent ye by my seruant *William*, who hath further instruction beside to acquaint ye with, whereof I desire ye to haue an especiall care.

First, *Marga et*, not your wifes daughter, but a by-blowe (as is imagined) of your predecessours, was called before the women.

Then mother *Messingham*, the old true penny for rinning of a Tripe, then *Alice* and *Jone*: *William* should haue bin there, but was not, marie *Richard* very honestly came in, and defended the cause very substantially, so did *Distresse Rose*, and the partie with the golde Ring on the forefinger. The intergatories for examination, were these that follow.

1 *Imprimis*, whether such a woman, named *Doll Phillips*, came to the dwelling house of the Tripe wiffe at such a time, naming the moneth and day.

2 Secondly, what talke they had beneath together, and whether she brought with her a letter or no.

3 Thir-



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3 Thirdly, who went by the staires with them, whether any body, or themselves alone.

4 Fourthly, how long they tarried about together, and whether any sheeres were cald for or no, or whether they had them ready about in the Chamber.

5 Fifthly, whether they knew them to be bled or no, for taking away of haire from her head, or the other vnseemly place.

6 Sixthly, whether the Tripe wife had so many suters as Doll speaks of, to the number of nineteene or no.

7 Seauenthly, whether they knew the man that had beene so bolde with the Tripe wife, that thre w her on the bed, kist her, and did, or would haue done *aliquid amplius*, because he was the furthest in her bookes.

8 Eighthly, whether the Capon and Turkie (by any of their knowledge) was sent to the King and Quene of faires or no.

Other questions were demanded afterward, but not with such vrgencie as these, because you know these were most materiall, and (as the case stood) were most necessarie to be knowne: yet will I tell ye what the other were, when I come to speake of them as they happened.

Margaret stood laughing, holding her hand before her mouth all the while the articles were read, wherupon, one of the women sharply reprooued her after this manner. What Margaret, maide (if ye be) ye shewe small ciuilitie, regarde yee not where ye are? you imagine belike, that ye are in the Quenes head in Patir noster rowe: ye made a wise nights worke there, did ye not, when (about you) a man was stabb



so farre into the backe, for shame, be more modest, else this (and your other trickes) will utterly marre your marriage, if yee live to be worthe of so honorable a calling.

The woman had no sooner uttered these speeches, but *Margaret* blushing (for she hath a little grace yet left her) stood very demurely, making courtesie at every word, and promised to answer every article truly, according to her knowledge, and thus she began.

Upon the day you name, she whome you terme *Doll Philips*, came to my mothers house, in the habit of a countrey woman, saying she was sent from one maister *Grace* in *Essex*, a Gentleman professing the lawe, and a very familiar friend of my mothers, for whose sake she was the better welcome, and much talke passed betwene my mother and her, because she shewed her selfe so perfectly acquainted with *Maister Grace*. A letter she brought indeed, which being read, she told my mother, that shee had more weighty matters to confer with her on, which made my mother take her by the staires with her, not admitting any but themselves to go with them. The time of their tarryance there, was not above three quarters of an houre at the uttermost in all which space I heard no Sheeres calde for neither were any caried up to them, nor knowe I whether any were aboute in the Chamber or no.

Now concerning your demaunde for usage of the Sheeres, truly I am perswaded it is utterly untrue, and onely rumoured abroad to defame my mother. For though she was desirous to haue the spurrials that were lost, and which I haue often times seene when my father was alive: yet I haue a better opinion of my mother then so, that she would not graunt to enjoy them  
by



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by any such a bad meane. Yet age now a dayes in these latter daies, shewes themselves so simple oftentimes, that one can hardly answer for them in matters of more importance, therefore I referre yee in this case to olde mot. *er Messingham*. she hath bene most inward with my mother, and therefore in such a doubtfull cause can best resolue yee.

That she had nine eene woers, I am not able to stand directly vpon the iust number, but questionlesse I imagine she had (from the beginning of her widow-head) rather more then one fewer, for I tell yee, my father left her that which made her looke after, and not so much but olde *Saunders* the Sergeant, became a iustie suter to her: but neuer I thinke was widowe so washt in sack, Sugar, and good drinckes, I warrant there are some that yet sit and thinke on their lawles expences, for my mother was outwardly kinde to all, but inwardly enclined to thinke well of no one, for if she could not deeply dissemble, there are liers abroad, but I name no body, in regarde she may now make amends for that fault.

Nowe that there was one more speciall in her fauour then all the rest, we in the house haue diuerse times imagined somewhat, many could neuer perceiue any outward token to be noted: but the woman who pretended cunning to her, threw forth very brummannerly speeches of the matter that vnder *disguise* (as it were) she disclosed the man to her, which if she did, she was not so wise as I tooke her for: my selfe am but a young wenche, and yet if I intended to bestow such a token of my fauour on any one, mine owne mouthe should neuer be the trumpet of my shame, but rather as I had offended fondely, it should be lockt in my bosome the more secretly, for let the worlde imagine what they list,



when they know nothing, I haue both the winde and water side of them.

As for sending the Capon and Turkie to the King and Queene of Fapries, thats best knowne to Doll and my mother, for the matche was closely made betweene themselves, and whether on any such condition or no, I am not able to say: but sure I am our maide caried them with her, and deliuered them to the woman, ere they came halfe way to the king of Fapries house, for they say his dwelling is at Baddington, and the maide was discharged of her burthen in high Holborne.

This is all I can deliuer good women, and (vpon my maidenhead) I haue told ye as much in these matters as I am able to say: for I had more minde of other busineses for my leise, then either to regarde my mothers couzenage or wooing.

Call in mother *Messingham* (quoth the Cryer) and she will resolue yee thorowly in these cunning affaires.

She being come before the Quest, whimpering and making courtesies downe to the ground at euery word: desired she might be no accuser of her good olde mistresse, for she knew nothing in these matters, and therefore could say little, but being commanded to proceed in the Articles, she pleaded ignorance to all but one, and the knowledge she had in that one was but by bare repozte neither, therefore (quoth she) builde not vpon the tructh of my words, for I receiued them at the second hand, and few things (ye know) are mended in the cariage. It is (quoth she) concerning her number of suiters whereof I am to speake, and which of them receiued most assurance of her kindnesse:  
then



7

then thus (after *Doll's* owne words) will I tell ye what I heard.

When the coosening *Dzab* had perswaded my mistress, that she could helpe her not onely to the golde knowne to be lost, but a great deale more said to be hid in the house: shee demaunded such a request as hath beene spoken of, for by the helpe therof she must effect the coniration, otherwise shee was not able to proceed any further: but by the faith of an olde woman, I thinke no such conference past betweene them, at least I am sure my mistress sweares the contrarie, and I tell yee I will not distrust her wordes for more then she is worth.

Come mistress (saith *Doll*) I knowe one kist yee on Christmasse Eve last past, when your hat fell into the Sowle tub, I know yee gaue a good fellow a King, with seauen Diamonds in it, and the King I likewise know ye haue this day recoured againe: so, albeit I am able to say who the man is you do most affection, and can tell therein perhaps more then you imagine: yet must you your selfe reueale his name to me, how he kist yee at the hedds side, vntide your hose-garter, and elceted ye for his owne with the best testimony of good wil.

She saith, that my mistress resolute her in all these, which if she did, (as I will neuer imagine her so simple, or that at any time she would make so slender reckoning of her reputation:) I must needes blame her folly and great indiscretion, which doubles the penaltie of the offence so carelesly committed.

Thus much I will confesse good women, that my mistress had good store of suiters, among whom were diuers of good credit & esteeme, whose purses launche  
out

out liberally, and nothing was reputed too deere or daintie for the widowe: but that I saw ill demeanour offered in any one of them, or any such wanton humour in my mistresse, I neither can or will say for all the worlds good.

Many haue beene falsely chargde with matters, as now perhaps my mistresse is at this time: but I leaue all to him to censure, that knowes best whether these reports are true or no, and so take this as the bittermost of my knowledge.

The rest being examined, and able to say little or nothing to the articles, the women went alone by themselves awhile, and finding euery thing so apparant, that they were not long to be stood bypon: they returned that the Tripe wife was neuer crumde, yet to prevent the worst which after wards might ensue, and as women that would not endaunger their credits, they wrote downe vpon their bill *Ignoramus*, wherupon, the sentence was deliuered in this manner.

First, because the Tripe wife had fallen into this wonderfull ouersight, and thereby had run into so many harde opinions: all her other suiters (ashamed of their former foolish affection, to fancie such an inconstant woman, or so durie a trade, and in so stinking a place) utterly giuing her ouer: she should thence be sent to London bzooge, and there be married to him, that had more then a moneths minde to Tripes and Trilbubs.

Lord how glad was I, when I heard the game go on your side, when I remembered what a tall seruitor you had beene all her wooing time for her: your hard fortune at *S. Graces*, where you had so slender entertainment, how you walked in your Jerkin and tawnie



tabney velvet hose, to view *M. Hubbards* hoppes,  
 when by that meanes you got a bidding to dinner, yea  
 euen the best place at the boord, namely, to sit iust before  
 your louing mistresse, where all amorous discourse  
 was faine to passe betwene ye in the Cup, for further  
 libertie ye were not admitted. But aboue all, I recom-  
 mend your shorthe and sweete instruction giuen her at  
 the window, pinching her by the finger, and bidding  
 her looke to her selfe, for she was in danger to be stolne  
 away, and all your market marde. And in faith the  
 merrie night at Epping was worth gramercie, when  
 the Gentleman your riuall sapt in your company, and  
 had a priest ready, if neede should so require. Belceue  
 me neighbour, you had great reason then to be af-  
 fraide: yett more then *Hercules*-like, you ballantly  
 held out, in despite of *Philastergogh*, the bottle of  
 Sack, and all *Richards* words, which renownes ye to  
 posteritie, for an vnconquerable wooer, and verifies on  
 your behalfe that auncient verse,

*He loou'd Tripes as his life,  
 Therefore he hath the Tripe wife.*

Oh that I were acquainted with some excellent wit,  
 who in liueliest colours could decipher downe your  
 heroycall fortunes.

*My stile is all to blunt and bad,  
 To write of such an actiue lad,  
 That brought the wooers all to baye,  
 And caried the Tripe wife quite away.*

C

Thus

Thus haue I sent ye all the proceedings of the Vir-  
 tie, and therewith (according to your request) my opi-  
 nion of thy blessed night, when you made such passage  
 to the pape, as the next morning you had the fruition  
 of all your labours. I meane the Garland of your bry-  
 ding day, to the disgrace of all the other sisters, and your  
 o'ne eternall commendation for ever. But first I pray  
 ye read this Dittie, which was deuised by a dere friend  
 of yours, Master Jeffray Kexon, in defence of your  
 wife so much wrongd, and in applauding of your rare  
 conquest, the like being neuer heard of since the great  
 Conquest.

*A ligg for the Ballad-mongers to sing fresh and  
 fasting, next their hearts euery morning, instead  
 of anew bunis-up, to giue a good morrow to the  
 Tripe-wife.*

**O** Neighbour Tripewife,  
 my heart is full of woe:  
 That cousing Doll the lugler,  
 should iumble with you so,  
 I that am your poore neighbour,  
 had rather spent a crowne:  
 Than haue ye thus defamed  
 by boyes about the towne.

*Abrad in euery corner,  
 the Ballads doo report:  
 That you were trimd unwomanly,  
 and in most shamefull sort:  
 By standing on a Trinet,*



to heare what she could say:  
 She lopt ye of a louters locke,  
 and carried it away.

Alas were you so simple,  
 to suffer such a thing:  
 Your owne maids sit and mocke ye,  
 and euery where doth ring,  
 The trimming of the Tripe wife,  
 it makes me in a rage:  
 And doubt least that the players  
 will sing it on the Stage.

I am sorrie for your husband,  
 al-ike good honest man;  
 He waikes about, yet mends not,  
 but looketh pale and wan:  
 That where before he vaunted,  
 the conquest he hath got:  
 He sits now in a mammering,  
 as one that mindes it not.

A number doo imagine,  
 that he repents his marriage,  
 And gladly to the shambles,  
 would send ye with your carriage;  
 For all the carts of household-stuffe,  
 that came to London bridge,  
 Nere pleased him so, as this one greefe  
 doth rub him on the ridge.

*If gold bring such a hart-breaks,  
 Ile none I thanke ye I:  
 Tis shame it should be spoken,  
 and if it be alie.  
 But would he be aduised by me,  
 if it be true or no:  
 I would turne her to her Tripes againe  
 and let all matters go.*

FINIS.

I. K.

*Now all good Ladds, to whose reading this present Tiggge shall come, I would not haue ye mistake my meaning in the Song, that ye should goe about the Streetes singing it, or chaunt it at her doore, ere she be vp in a morning. No, God forbid, that would but breed domesticall disquietnesse, and if man and wife should happen to fall out about it, I (not knowing how neere the Tripe tub stands) might bring him in more danger of Can-Not then I am aware of. Therefore I pray ye conceit it after my owne entending, that is, a Sorrowfull Sonnet for euery friend of his to meditate on, least their fortunes should prooue so monstrous as his, and they run into perill of hanging themselves, vpon so extraordinarie a conclusion.*

*Heere followeth the rare atchieuement of the widdowe, from her house behinde the Shambles, how she was conuayed thence to London Bridge, and made a Bride vpon a very short warning.*

[ *Pea marie Sir, now ye come to the matter I long to*



to heare of, by reason of the diuers reports bruted abroad thereof, and whether it were so heroycally acted, as some haue heard it from his owne lippes. Was it possible, that she (hauing such honest well willers and friends, at home at her house at dinner) could chuse no other time to slip away, but euen at such a time, thereby to discredit her selfe? Was her coloured excuse to buy a hat and an apron, and falls it now out so that she bought a hus band? O world full of falshood, O women most deceitfull. when ye are least suspected. But went she then directly to the Bridge or no? No, she went not then thither, but one of her Sisters, counterfetting a sudden sicknesse, the other (being the fatter of the twaine) was made the instrument of fetching her to an intended Banquet: where wine walking lustily about, and manie merrie matters familiarly disputed on, it was set downe for an irrevocable determination, that no remedie, the Tripe-wife must dine next daye at her louers house. But it is wonderfull to speake on, with what zeale she paced thither, her apron in her hand all the way, which she had not so much leasure as to put on, but looked still behinde her, least she should bee caught by for waight and fashion. He, as any kinde heart in like case would doo, doubting her coming, because she had so often dissembled with others, trudges to her house: but happie did hee extreme that lost labor, when at his returne backe againe he found her where he wold haue her.

Now the Sisters lay on load for him, because hee had promised them large requitall: and how the tyme was wasted in conference, I know nat, but wel I wot, home he would not let her goe that night, for now hee

had her at such an aduantage, as he neuer expected the like, if he should now let her scape.

But in good sadnes they are much to blame, that say they whittled her with wine, and so (after some other ceremonies thereto belonging) drew a promise of marriage from her. It is verie unlike it should bee so, because that night before she went to bed, she protested she would none of him. Oh, but the old dog helde sure: and though the man himselfe were somewhat timorous, yet by good instructions he began to chere up his spirites.

Now you that be louers, tell mee whether it were a hot signe of loue or no, when the *Widdowe* (sitting asleepe by the fire) hee balianly (comming behinde her) pulled her skole from her, when downe fell she, and he by or upon her, with that learned and wittie aduerbe in his mouth, *Keepe the widdow waking*. Well, I know not whether these words are able to enchaunt or no, or what strength or vigor the manly acting of them hath: but either thorough them, or her late sitting by that night she tooke such a surfet, that needes shee must to bed. And yet me thinks that labour might full well haue been spared, because she had so little while to rest her selfe: and rising againe so early, it might bring manie a qualme ouer a wiser womans stomacke than hers.

But would you imagine, a woman of her tender peres, little aboue thye score at the vttermost not daring to aduventure on the water in the broad daye light, could so suddenly conceiue such a hardie peere of courage, as so ouer-timely in a morning, to passe through his cellar, and so enter a boate lying readie for her, to  
sayle



sayle so farre as Pepper Alley, and thence to *S. Georges Church*: where because the Church-man was not ready, she must needs passe a larger circuite. But I can tell ye wherefore that was: marrie to stop theyr mouthes, that said she durst not be married by daylight, therefore she despised two a clocke in the morning: A fygge for them that dare not be married at ten a clock in the forenoon, and afterward home to dinner of her owne prouision, brought thether the day before. There was a cunning bob for the rest. Call ye him a foole or a simple fellow, that had the wit to compasse such an exploit: Well! masters, sit you at the upper end of the table, kisse and smowch the *Widdow* neuer so much: there is one sits nethermost, hee hath an eye to his busines, and whatsoeuer you but barely hope for, hee is the man I tell ye, must carrie the wench away.

Oh, but we I face the friend that made such hast for the license: few wooers are beholding to such a deere *Damon*. And not at that time onely did he stand him in some sted, but in the countrie likewise he stucke closely to him. If he reward him not well for his paynes, he is verie much too blame: for both his countenance and credite were no meane helpes to him. Hold him then the best string to your bow (*Neighbour*) in getting the *Cripe-wife*.

Thus haue I been as good as my word vnto you, my verie kinde and honest *Neighbour*, in sending you this brieife collection of your adventures: nor knowe I how to extoll sufficientely your great deservings, though iniquitie of time somewhat obscure your valor, reproachfully throwing this bone for you to gnawe on,  
that

that had your labour been bestowed in better sort, than  
for a basket of Tripes and Chitterlings: some one or  
other would haue spoken to our Antiquarie, to haue  
written foure lines at the least in praise of your passing  
proceeding. But seeing it is no better,

*Giue losers leaue to prate their fill,  
The Tripes are thine both good and ill.  
What others say, take thou no care,  
Puddings and Tripes are chapmens ware.*





*Certaine reports spread abroad of the Tripe-wife  
and her late married husband, whereby if they  
be flaundered or no, let themselves be their own  
Iudges.*

**F**irst for the Tripe-wife, that all the time of her  
widowhood, her lips were so common in kissing e-  
uerie one, and her hands so readie in receiuing all gifts  
whatsoeuer, tearming each later husband, and making  
so little difference in outward kindness, that either she i-  
magined she might haue manie husbands, or dissem-  
blyngly thought to vse all alike. A fault, wherein if shee  
were guiltie, as it is credibly reported, doubtles it de-  
serueth generall reproofe, and no milde censure of her  
verie deere friends.

That likewise she was verie wantonly giuen, often  
desiring like them long kept fasting, the louing morsell  
of a man. And to shewe her folly the more in this one  
poynt, I haue heard, that with her own hand she made  
a priuie search in a Gentlemans round hose, whether he  
ware them with a rowle, after the best fashion: or that  
they were boyd of all good shape and making.

That one of her Sisters, knowing her by nature to  
bee thus affected, willed him that hath married her, to  
shew her whether he were a man able for the field or no,  
and what good weapon hee carried about him: other-  
wise, there was small hope of pleasing her, and lesse to

D

be

be expected of his successe.

Now whether he followed her good counsell or no, I am not able to say: but hence (as it is reported) grew Dols & hapie apnyng at her thowng upon the bed: Which if hee did alone, and no bodie else, it was the more valourously performed: but if he had any pertakers, it was the greater wrong to come so many a, iinst one bodie; for one to one is alwayes comuted faire playe, in my and reasonable, but to oppresse by multitudes, is euer reckoned an apparant signe of cowardise.

That shee should sweare the night before shee was wedded, that she would neuer marrie with the Grocer he was such a logger-head: but if the former condition of the Obligation stood in full force and verue, then I imagine he had best right to her, except some hungry fellow desired to follow, and sup up his leanings.

And here (by the way) the generall runnear is to be examined: namely, that the night the steele was puld from her, she had abuse offered her two severall waies: first to be vanquished by wine, a shrewd depriuer of the senses: then dastardlike to be throwne backward, and more laid on her, than she was able to beare. If this be the way to get a wife, well may it be learned drunkenly done, but neuer to be reputed her oycall, like his other actiue agilities: marrie when no better way is left to speed, wel-fare the wine that won the widdow.

It is said also, that he promised my brother William the present release of foure score pound land by the yere (which he was not to enjoy till the widdowes death) if he would (as he did) labour for his successe. And now that he hath sped, hee not onely in this breakes promise with him, but in a matter of two houses beside, stand-  
ing



ing behinde the shambles, the leases whercof were by his deceased brother made in his name, and conditioned that he should enter on them after his death: but by laste, my new married brother in law now sayes no: so *William* is like to carrie yet both for the lands and houses. But bee of good cheere Brother, you are not the first that hath travailed for an unkinde requitter, nor shall be the last must lose by him.

Both the Sisters (I heare) likewise are together by the eares, because the ones reward exceeds the others, and there is such alledging, which of them hath best deserved on his behalfe: that while they stand contending, and counting how much they shall haue for their paines, he turnes them off with a fillop of the finger, and flatly saith, now he hath what he would haue, let them goe seeke what they should haue. Sisters, I would haue *William* and you put your gaines together into a bottomlesse bag: and if at the yeres end it encrease not, yet ye shall be sure it will not be lesse than it is. Harry, (if ye can) turne your endeuors another time to better aduantage: else you will bee thought vnwise, & he that so thziues by your labor more fortunate.

Fie vpon ingratitude, cries poore *Richard*, hee will sell all his geewings for a poore pepper corne: yet he saies if promise had been kept, fiftie pounds in esse at the least should haue fallen to his share, beside the full and absolute power of his Sisters trade put ouer to him onely: where now, he is not onely deceived of the one, but disappointed of the other: and his vnkinde Sister the Tripe-wife, that I thinke will followe sower selling euen in her grane, abridges him of that paltre prerogative, and flatly erects the office still her selfe.

What a lamentable Dittie is here in foure parts, of *Nihil habemus*, which doth not so much disturbe the singers, as it brygeth displeasure in the hearers. Good people, beware of wooers promises, they are like the musique of a Taber and Pipe: the Pipe sings golde, gifts, and manie gay things, but performance mortallized in the Taber, still beares the burden of I doubt it, I doubt it: which in my conceipt is a verie pitifull hearing.

Neouer I vnderstand, that verie simply himselfe makes report, how weake his state stood before he got the widdow, and that if she had not come when shee did, his inkhorn had been drie, and he not able to write one letter more.

What folly is this in a man, to disclose his own secretes? If it had been so, for shame I would neuer haue reueald it my selfe. But hence I perceiue growes the household disquietnes, as is said, bet weene him and her, because she findes not wh it she expected, and therefore wisbeth her selfe ouer head and cares in the sowcetub.

What a mournfull mornings worke was that betweene my fat Sister and her, when she railed on Lombard-streete, for exchanging so much of her golde, and wisht she were behinde the Shambles againe as well as euer she was: for the roaring of the Thames, (or rather ransacking of her bagges) so disquiets her nightly rest, that her other home was heauen in respect of London-bridge.

Beside, it is no manly part in him to make baite, how oft hee trickt the Tripe-wife before he had her. Fie, fie, I am content to winke at small faules, but (if

ye



ye should be such a one) this were intolerable. He bee  
sworne, I made answer on your behalfe, where I had  
a round cheeke for my labour. I said, I durst haue layd  
my life yee would not utter such a word for all the  
world. Heare foole quoth the answerer, the man is  
wise enough.

Then I heare how you goe bragging about, brea-  
thing forth horrible thundring threats, because cer-  
taine bookes and ballads are printed of the Tripe wife:  
ye said ye had the trick to out-face all the wooers, and  
so yee wou'd ouer dare all the Printers: yee beknaue  
your betters, calling them at your owne pleasure, and  
then turn your tung to your tai'e when you haue done.  
What man? it will not shewe alwaies, neither can  
you or the best tenant yee haue, beare downe *Pauls*  
*Church-yard*. Rather win them with kindnes, for ex-  
tremities mayles not, they know yee for a man and no  
more, and will rare for ye as a man and no more.

I know a verie good friend of yours, who would bee  
heartely forre if these reports shuld be true, & means  
to talke with ye on them when hee next meetes ye: for  
my part, I am sure ye euer found me firme, and so up-  
right vnto ye in wading thorough the cause, that as I  
would excuse nothing, so would I neuer iustifie anie  
thing.

We must regard the world as it is, naturally giuen  
to finde fault where anie cause is giuen, bee it neuer so  
little. And though all the stirre about the Tripe-wife  
be not worth the least peece of a Tripe: yet it sufficeth  
that yee haue wonne the spurres, from them all, and  
therefore let me adde these, as appendices vnto your  
Armes.

A Chitterling rampant in a field solitary, two bag-  
gas puddings for the supporters, a beates foot clean-  
ly washed on your crest, and a faine scrapple Cupe  
to cover all for the mantle.

So with my hartie commendations to your good  
bed fellowe and your selfe, with all the rest of my ap-  
proched friends, I bid yee heartely farewell, this 2.  
of April. 1595.

By him that is more yours  
than his owne,

Oliuer Oat-meale.

FIN

Hold Oliuer and thou be a good fellow, and let me  
in two or three words clasp up a conclusion, before thou  
fully end thy Finis.

In the Soule-wines time of retailing, thou wert  
not verie familiar, but since Tripes haue been ingros-  
s: seemes thou hast been her sweete harts Secretarie.  
Shall I be plaine with thee? I must like the partialitie  
of thy Turie, commend thy plainnes touching the re-  
ports, and giue thee this priuiledge, that neither hee nor  
she shall euer hereafter trust thee, and therefore if thou  
hane aule more matter of truth, turne it to me, and I  
can send it to mad Daide, that meanes to thunder out  
terrible matter against Nicholmeates fodde, and Huff  
snuffe his neighbor. Farewell till with in this fortnight  
by which time we shall either be all friends, or make our  
fide endlesse.

FINIS.



